

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): An ultrapure water producing apparatus comprising:
at least two ion exchangers each configured to purify pure water;
a main route connecting said at least two ion exchangers in series; and
a plurality of bypass routes connected to said main route and connecting said at least two ion exchangers in series such that the pure water flows through the at least two ion exchangers in an order different from the order of said at least two ion exchangers connected by said main route.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The ultrapure water producing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

said at least two ion exchangers at least include a first ion exchanger provided on a most downstream side in which pure water flows and a second ion exchanger;

said plurality of bypass routes at least include a first bypass route, a second bypass route and a third bypass route;

said first bypass route is configured to supply first processed pure water to said second ion exchanger when said first ion exchanger is discharging said first processed pure water;

said second bypass route is configured to send second processed pure water to said main route when said second ion exchanger supplied with said first processed pure water is discharging said second processed pure water; and

said third bypass route is configured to supply pure water to said at least two ion exchangers except an ion exchanger provided on a most upstream side in which pure water flows.

Claim 7 (original): The ultrapure water producing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

an ultrafiltration film provided downstream of said at least two ion exchangers;
a fourth bypass route for supplying permeate pure water discharged from said ultrafiltration film to said at least two ion exchangers; and

a metal concentration meter for detecting a metal component of said permeate pure water flowing through said fourth bypass route.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ultrapure water producing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

said main route includes a plurality of main route valves provided for interrupting supply of pure water to said at least two ion exchangers, said plurality of main route valves being provided corresponding to ~~by each one of~~ said at least two ion exchangers; and

said plurality of main route valves are configured to close when flowing pure water through said first to third bypass routes.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)